

What I claim is:

1. Apparatus for use in handling an oocyte or embryo comprising: a tube adapted for use in the handling of the oocyte or embryo; and an elongate jacket extending along said tube, said jacket being arranged to maintain the temperature within said tube.
2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said jacket is flexible.
3. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said jacket is thermally insulating.
4. Apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said jacket is of a foamed plastics.
5. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said jacket is heated.
6. Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said jacket is heated by warmed fluid.
7. Apparatus according Claim 6, wherein said jacket includes a central bore in which said tube is received, two outer channels and a connection by which warmed fluid is supplied along said channels
8. Apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said outer channels are of C shape.
9. Apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said connection includes an inlet and outlet located at the same end of said jacket.

10. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said jacket is extruded.
11. Apparatus according to Claim 1, including a source of flushing fluid and a connection by which said flushing fluid flows along said tube.
12. Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said source of flushing fluid includes a syringe connected with said tube and containing said flushing liquid, and wherein said jacket extends along at least a part of the length of said syringe.
13. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said tube is adapted for passage of an oocyte or embryo.
14. Apparatus according to Claim 1 including a dual-lumen oocyte recovery needle having a flushing lumen and an aspiration lumen, wherein said tube is connected to said flushing lumen, wherein an aspiration tube is connected with said aspiration lumen, and wherein a second elongate jacket extends along said aspiration tube to maintain the temperature of an oocyte flowing along said aspiration tube.
15. A method of oocyte recovery comprising the steps of: connecting a tube to an oocyte recovery needle; warming said tube along a part at least of its length; applying suction to said tube to draw an oocyte into said tube; and collecting the oocyte after passage through the warmed length of said tube.

16. A method of oocyte recovery comprising the steps of: connecting an aspiration tube and a flushing tube to an oocyte recovery needle; maintaining warmth of said tubes along a part at least of their length; applying flushing fluid via said flushing tube to said needle; applying suction to said aspiration tube to draw an oocyte into said aspiration tube; and collecting the oocyte after passage through said aspiration tube.
17. Apparatus for use in extracting an oocyte comprising: a dual-lumen oocyte recovery needle having a flushing lumen and an aspiration lumen; a flushing tube connected with said flushing lumen; an aspiration tube connected with said aspiration lumen; a first insulating jacket extending along said flushing tube to maintain the temperature of flushing liquid in said flushing tube; and a second insulating jacket extending along said aspiration tube to maintain the temperature of an oocyte flowing along said aspiration tube.
18. Apparatus according to Claim 17 including a syringe containing flushing liquid connected with said flushing tube, and wherein said first insulating jacket extends along a part at least of the length of said syringe.
19. Apparatus according to Claim 18 including a tube for collecting an oocyte connected with said aspiration tube, and wherein said second insulating jacket extends along a part at least of the length of said collecting tube.
20. Apparatus for use in extracting an oocyte comprising: an oocyte recovery needle; a flexible tube connected with said needle; a warming jacket having a bore along which

said flexible tube extends; and a supply of warmed liquid connected with said jacket to warm said jacket and thereby warm said flexible tube so as to maintain the temperature of an oocyte flowing along said tube.